

Message Text

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ACTION CU-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2692

CINCPAC

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USIAC

FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL; CU/EA

USIA/IEA

CINCPAC - USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - MARCH 3 -9

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

MORE, IN FACT, MUCH MORE INJECTION OF THE US IN THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN THIS WEEK. IF THE GOVERNMENT SLATE HAS ITS WAY, THE OPPOSITION WILL BE HOPELESSLY BRANDED AS CANDIDATES OF "ALIEN ELEMENTS" AND THEREFORE OUT OF STEP WITH CONTEMPORARY PHILIPPINE NATIONALISM.

IN A WEKEND TV SHOW, DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE USED MORE THAN AN HOUR TO OUTLINE HIS CHARGES THAT JAILED EX-SENATOR BENIGNO AQUINO HAS (OR CERTAINLY HAD) LINKS WITH THE CIA AND THE NPA. EDITORIALISTS AND COLUMNISTS JOINED IN TO ANALYZE THE CHARGES IN DEPTH, INIVITABLY TO AQUINO'S DISADVANTAGE. CALLING THE CHARGES "SERIOUS", THE PRESIDENT ORDERED THAT AQUINO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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GIVEN TELEVISION TIME TO ANSWER THEM.

HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT ALSO OBSERVED THAT HE CAN PRODUCE EVIDENCE IN COURT THAT SOME OF THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS (ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY FOREIGNERS". EVEN MANILA NEWSPAPERS HAVE TAKEN TO TRANSLATING THE WORD TO MEAN AMERICANS.

ON AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ISSUE, THE PRESIDENT SAID FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO RESOLVE THE PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION ON THE BASES IMMEDIATELY, LEAVING OTHER MATTERS TO BE NOGOTIATED LATER. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, HE CHARGED THE OPPOSITION WITH HAMPERING THE NEGOTIATIONS BY THEIR INJECTION OF ISSUES INTO THE DIALOGUE.

ALSO DURING THE WEEK, INDUSTRY SECRETARY PATERNO RAISED THE OLD SPECTRE OF "PARITY" BY CLAIMING THE USG IS AGAIN ASKING FOR "NATIONAL TREATMENT" FOR AMERICAN INVESTORS. THE CLAIM WAS ONCE AGAIN PUT TO REST BY AMBASSADOR NEWSOM IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM ONE OF THE NEWSMAN DURING HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION TODAY. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE, OF COURSE, ESPECIALLY IN THE PRESENT INVIRONMENT, THAT IT WILL REMAIN THERE.

PROGNOSIS FOR THE COMING WEEK: MORE OF THE SAME.

II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

AMBASSADOR FACES FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS -- USIS ARRANGED

FOR AMBASSADOR NEWSOM'S APPEARANCE BEFORE AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF MORE THAN 30 MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (FCAP). AFTER BRIEF REMARKS CON-
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CERNING THE CONTINUITY OF US-EAST ASIAN POLICY, THE AMBASSADOR ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE BASES, ECONOMIC ISSUES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ETC., ALL DOWN THE LINE AND ON TARGET, OF COURSE, IN TERMS OF MISSION OBJECTIVES. THE AUDIENCE INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALMOST EVERY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATION IN THE PHILIPPINES SUCH AS AP, UPI, FEER, REUTERS, NYT (INCLUDING VISITING FOX BUTTERFIELD), CBS, TASS, BUSINESS WEEK, THE JAPANESE MEDIA AND A HOST OF OTHERS.

MULTINATIONALS -- A POSITIVE VIEW -- THE THIRD SPEAKER IN

POST'S "ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE SERIES," THOMAS HAGUE DELIVERED TALK ON "THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY" TO AUDIENCE OF 125 BUSINESSMEN, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND ACADEMICS. MULTINATIONALS ARE WIDELY PERCEIVED IN THE PHILIPPINES AS SKIMMING THE COUNTRY'S CREAM AND LEAVING THE WHEY FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLANDS. HAGUE'S EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR MUTUAL PROFIT PARRIED THIS CHALLENGE IN ADVANCE. HE TOOK THE VIEW OF A ENLIGHTENED INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMAN, ACKNOWLEDGED PAST EXPLOITATION, SUGGESTED FUTURE GUARDS AGAINST IT. HE AND ENRIQUE ESTEBAN, A FILIPINO BUSINESSMAN WHO SHARED THE PLATFORM WITH HIM, MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME ASSUMPTIONS

THE LETTER FROM A FILIPINO STANDPOINT. THE SESSION WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS AMIABLE TONE, WHICH WAS MAINTAINED DURING Q&A. THE UNUSUALLY LARGE AUDIENCE WAS PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO WIDE RADIO/TV ADVANCE PUBLICITY TIED TO THE SUCCESS OF PREVIOUS SEMINARS IN THIS SERIES.

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PARTING SPLASH -- TO DEVELOP GREATER CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL

ART COMMUNITY AND ARS PRIMARY CONTACTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST, TJCC CO-SPONSORED WITH THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ART A CONCERT/ART SHOW AT THE CENTER. BILLED AS A "PARTING SPLASH" FOR THE SENIORS OF THE SCHOOL, THE COMBINED FUNCTION DREW THREE OF THE MOST PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE ARTISTIC COMMUNITY -- A NOVELIST, A SCULPTOR AND A THEATER DIRECTOR -- AMONG EDUCATORS, ARTISTS, WRITERS, AND A HOST OF OTHERS AMKING UP A FULL HOUSE. THE PAINTINGS ARE ON DISPLAY IN THE CENTER AND WILL REMAIN THERE FOR A MONTH.

CALIFORNIA SCULPTURE -- TRAVELLING AMERICAN ARTS/
POETESS JUDY HIRAMOTO WAS PROGRAMMED AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM TO TALK ON RECENT CALIFORNIA TRENDS IN SCULPTURE, MORE SPECIFICALLY THOSE OF THE BAY AREA. THE LECTURE/SLIDE PRESENTATION WAS FOCUSSED ON THE ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN THEMES AND MOTIFS EVIDENT IN MANY OF THE WORKS, AND MADE MORE SIGNIFICANT AS SEEN THROUGH ASIAN EYES. UNFORTUNATELY, MS. HIRAMOTO'S PRESENTATION DID NOT MEASURE UP TO THE CALI-BER OF THE AUDIENCE, A STRONG CROSS SECTION OF MANILA'S PROMINENT ARTISTS, GALLERY OWNERS AND CRITICS. IN RETROSPECT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE APPROPRIATE FOR A UNIVERSITY FORUM.

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USIS MATERIALS HIT THE MARK -- TWO SIGNIFICANT ARTICLES

IN THE LOCAL PRESS THIS WEEK DREW HEAVILY ON USIS-SUPPLIED MATERIALS. FIRST, A FEATURE IN "PEOPLE", THE SUNDAY MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT OF THE TIMES JOURNAL ON AMBASSADOR NEWSOM USED BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS AND QUOTES FROM SPEECHES THE AMBASSADOR HAS MADE IN THE PHILIPPINES (ALL MADE AVAILABLE TO THE REPORTER BY THE POST), AS WELL AS DIRECT QUOTES FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH THE AMBASSADOR SET UP BY THE POST. THE RESULT WAS A HIGHLY READABLE AND FAVORABLE PROFILE OF THE AMBASSADOR. SECONDLY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR FRANCISCO DE LEON TOOK AGENCY MATERIALS ON "OPERATION TEAM SPIRIT" SUPPLIED TO SEVERAL LEADING CORRESPONDENTS WITH PERSONAL NOTES FROM THE IO) AND WROTE A VERY UPBEAT PIECE ON THE EXERCISE ENDING WITH THE NOTE THAT IT APPEARS THE U.S. IS "TAKING STEPS TO BALANCE ITS POLITICS" IN THE WORLD. DE LEON USED DIRECT QUOTES FROM THE RECENT SPEECH BY SECRETARY BROWN TO SUPPORT THAT THESIS.

"OH GOD." PREVIEWED AT USIS -- IN COOPERATION WITH AN

AMERICAN BUSINESS EXECUTIVE, THE POST "SNEAK" PREVIEWED "OH GOD*". BEFORE A CAREFULLY SELECTED AUDIENCE OF 45 IN THE USIS AUDITORIUM. THE FILM WAS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE WARNER BROTHERS DISTRIBUTOR IN MANILA AND PROVIDED AN IDEAL VEHICLE FOR BRINGING TOGETHER PRINCIPAL CONTACTS IN A RELAXED, REPRESENTATIONAL SETTING. THE SUCCESS OF THIS VENTURE POINTS TO OTHER OF THE SAME KIND, ASSUMING (AS WE DO) CONTINUED CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE POST AND THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY.
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